

Requirements for Pasture Renovation

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 2008

Producer requirements for obtaining cost share for pasture renovation:


Eligible lands: Pasture and other land that is used for both pasture and hay, not land that is just used for hay production. Pasture Condition Score before application of the system must be less than 35 points. If 50 percent or more of the existing grass species are desirable, use the following rates to renovate with legumes. Legumes may be seeded in any of the following mixes depending on soils, use, management and forage needed.

- 2 lbs white clover, 4 lbs red clover, and 8 lbs of annual lespedeza- uplands
- 2 lbs white clover and 4 -7 lbs red clover

No additional incentives will be paid for Pasture Nutrient Management or Prescribed Grazing in association with this practice on the same acres.

Maximum Acres: 100 acres

Producer requirements for payment:

1. **Soil test required** (University of Tennessee Lab or A and L Labs using UT testing methods and recommendations). Areas of contrasting soils, problem spots or portions of fields where yields are significantly different should be sampled separately, provided the area can be fertilized separately. Examples: bottomland and upland. See University of Tennessee publication PB 1061 ( [UT PB1061](#)) for soil sampling information.
2. **Apply lime** as required by soil test (University of Tennessee soil test recommendation).
3. **Apply fertilizer** for establishment by soil test recommendations. A medium/high fertility level is the desired target.
4. **Develop a conservation plan with a grazing component** for the land with NRCS assistance.
5. **Implement a rotational grazing plan with a minimum of :**
 - A. **Five paddocks**
 - B. **Minimum grazing height of:** Graze no more than 20 percent of the acreage to less than the minimum grazing height. Confine and feed livestock as needed to protect from overgrazing. Adjust stocking rate, management or inputs as needed to manage grazing heights.

- 2" for bermudagrass, ryegrass
 - 3" for cool season grasses (e.g. tall fescue, orchardgrass, cereal grains)
 - 6" for tall upright grasses (e.g. native grass, millet, sorghums)
- C. **Balance forage.** Completion of a livestock and forage balance is required.
Adjust livestock numbers, fertilizer rates, or purchased feed in order to meet livestock forage needs.
- D. **Control weeds** in the pasture by clipping, spraying, high density grazing, mixed species grazing and/or wiping as needed. Complete a pest management plan as a part of the conservation plan.
6. **Payments** The Pasture Condition Score at the end of the first year needs to be greater than 35 points.